male entered the nest-hole and the female flew away.

In contrast, the "su-sie" calls are uttered even when the birds are alone and they are accompanied by bows and cocking the head. Though several such calls are repeated, this is done slowly, one at a time with an interval of one or two seconds each.

In my opinion, the duetting calls of the heart-spotted woodpecker could serve two purposes: the first, as a recognition call, perhaps also to maintain the pair bond, and second, being loud and sharp, as a territorial call. This species, as well as the related Gray and Buff Woodpecker, are known to drum uncommonly (Short 1982). I too heard the Heart-spotted Woodpecker drumming only on two occasions in the entire study period of 18 months. The drumming was weak and rather inaudible. The duet calls may act as a substitute for the drumming and may serve to announce the occupation of a territory.

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12. WOODPECKER HOLES USED FOR NESTING BY SECONDARY CAVITY-NESTERS IN THE WESTERN GHATS, INDIA

The use of woodpecker holes by secondary cavity-nesting birds is well known (Short 1979). Yet no specific information exists for the Western Ghats, India. During a study of woodpeckers at the Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala, I came across eight species of secondary cavity-nesting birds using old holes of five woodpecker species (Table 1).

There was a close relation between the size (weight) of the bird and the diameter of the nest hole entrance. All the birds weighing more than 100 gm nested in the nest-holes of the Greater Golden-backed Woodpecker, whose mean nest-hole diameter was 12.7 cm, while the smallest bird (Yellow-throated Sparrow) nested more frequently in the nest-cavities of the Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker. This choice may be related to competition. Birds nesting in large cavities stand a greater chance of eviction by a larger competitor.

In addition, bees were seen occupying two nests of the Greater Golden-backed Woodpecker and one of the Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker. Yellow-throated

Table 1: Details of secondary cavity-nesters occupying woodpecker nests

Secondary cavity-nesters	Woodpecker species				
	MG (12.7)* n = 19	SB (7.4)* n = 6	YN (6.8)* n = 3	MA (4.7)* n = 9	PY (3.4)* n = 10
Indian Roller (*Coracias benghalensis*) (169 gm)**	2	-	-	-	-
Spotted Owlet (*Athene brama*) (114 gm)**	1	-	-	-	-
Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) (110 gm)**	3	-	-	-	-
Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) (104 gm)**	1	-	-	-	-
Jungle Myna (*Acridotheres fuscus*) (83 gm)**	-	1	-	-	-
Grey-headed Starling (*Sturnus malabaricus*) (40 gm)**	-	-	1	-	-
Oriental Magpie Robin (*Copsychus saularis*) (35 gm)**	-	1	-	-	-
Yellow-throated Sparrow (*Petronia xanthocollis*) (18 gm)**	-	-	-	1	4

MG = *Chrysocolaptes lucidus* (Greater Golden-backed Woodpecker), SB = *Picus xanthopygaeus* (Little Scaly-bellied Green Woodpecker), YN = *Picus chlorolophus* (Small Yellow-naped Woodpecker), MA = *Dendrocopos mahrattensis* (Yellow-fronted Pied Woodpecker), PY = *Dendrocopos nanus* (Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker), *Nest entrance diameter estimate in cm (Santharam 1995), **Body-weight of the bird (Ali and Ripley 1983).

Sparrows were the most aggressive and persistent competitors. They attempted to evict Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpeckers even before the latter completed their nesting, and in one instance before the excavation was complete. In most cases, nest-holes were almost immediately occupied (within a week) after the woodpeckers vacated nests. There was a demand for fresh holes because these are safer, harbouring fewer parasites and known to fewer competitors and predators (Short 1979, Van Balen *et al.* 1982, Sedgwick and Knopf 1992).

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13. SIGHTING OF BLACK-NAPED ORIOLE *ORIOLUS CHINENSIS* AND FRANKLIN'S PRINIA *PRINIA HODGSONII* IN SIRKALI, NAGAPATTINAM DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU

Between January 26 and February 10, 2000, we carried out a survey of birds around villages in Sirkali taluka, Nagapattinam district, in the state of Tamil Nadu, south India. The habitats surveyed included wooded areas along rivers, grasslands, paddy fields, freshwater lakes, and coastal swamps. The villages are located along the Bay of Bengal coast, which is a major migratory route for birds leading to Point Calimere and onwards to Sri Lanka. We recorded a total of 113 species of birds, and two species, the Black-naped Oriole (*Oriolus chinensis*) and Franklin's Prinia (*Prinia hodgsonii*), were recorded for the first time from this area. The Black-naped Oriole was seen in a wooded area at a farm in Thittai village. It appears to be a rare winter visitor to India (Grimmett *et al.* 1999). Ali (1996) states that this species is an occasional winter visitor to the Peninsula, northeast India and Bangladesh. The Franklin's Prinia was very vocal as it rested on top of a bent grass blade in the paddy fields at sunset. The dark grey hood was almost like the Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*, and it contrasted markedly with the white belly unbarred by a grey breast-band. Its fantail was bordered with white spots disposed in scale. This species has not been seen in the area (Grimmett *et al.* 1999) and there is no mention of it in Ali (1996).

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14. RED-VENTED BULBUL *PYCNONOTUS CAFER* FEEDING BLACK DRONGO *DICRURUS MACROCERCUS* CHICKS

On a monsoon visit to the Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, India between July 4 and 15, 2001 we were amazed at the number of bird species nesting in a half acre patch around our research camp, near the Hinauta entrance barrier. Among those feeding their nestlings at that time were Indian Rollers (*Coracias*